



Water Currents

RILEY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Winter 2011

www.rileycountyks.gov/index.aspx?nid=1014

Volume 18, Issue 1

ANNUAL MEETING – February 3rd

The Riley County Conservation District's **62nd Annual Meeting** will be held on Thursday evening, **February 3rd, 2011 at Pottorf Hall** in CICO Park, near the intersection of Avery and Kimball Avenues in Manhattan, Kansas. **Supper will be served at 6:30 PM**, and will consist of a hearty buffet catered by Ricky's Café of Hanover, Kansas. We have changed the program a bit this year. We will not present awards for posters and other contests to school children and their families, and thus anticipate a smaller audience and shorter evening.

A short **business meeting** will follow the meal, and District Board Supervisors will present the 2010 annual report and treasurer's report. Two Board Supervisors will be elected to three year terms. The 2010 Soil & Water Conservation Award and Grassland Award will be presented to Riley County landowners, and we will draw for Door Prizes! **(If you'd like to donate a door prize, it would be very much appreciated!)**

In order to know how much food to prepare, **reservations are required**. To make your reservations, please phone (785) 537 8764 ext 1301, or send an email message to robert.lienemann@ks.nacdnet.net, or return the form below to the Riley County Conservation District's office in Manhattan. Please contact Bob if you are able to contribute a door prize, and **please respond no later than January 28, 2011.**

_____ (clip here and return)



RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meal(s) for the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Riley County Conservation District to be held on February 3rd, 2011 at Pottorf Hall in CICO Park in Manhattan. The meal will be served at 6:30 PM.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Return to:

**Riley County Conservation District, 3705 Miller Parkway - Suite A,
Manhattan, KS 66503**

Thank you to Riley State Bank, UMB National Bank, Commerce Bank and Union State Bank for contributing to our Annual Meeting and meal.

Your Current Staff



NRCS and FSA employees in the Manhattan Service Center serve both Riley and Geary Counties. **Kevin Religa**, District Conservationist is your best contact for CSP, EQIP, WHIP, and other program questions.

Tom Roth is Soil Cons. and Nutrient Mgmt. Specialist for the region, and **Nick Strawn** is our Technician, providing design, staking and checkout for field work. **John Henry** works a ten county area from this office and **Alex Miller** works four local counties, both as Range Mgmt. Specialists.

Irene Johnson has retired, and **Bob Lienemann** is a staff of one for the Riley County Conservation District. Bob is your best contact for state cost share funds, drill rental, grass seed, educational programs and the District's farm. We try to keep someone in the office, but occasionally we are all in the field. **If you have a specific need, it is best to call ahead** and be sure that we'll be here to help you - (785) 537 8764 ext 1301.



Flint Hills PF & QF

Flint Hills Pheasants & Quail Forever will hold their **Annual Banquet on Friday, February 11, 2011** at the Purple Wave Banquet Hall, 823 Levee Drive in Manhattan, Kansas. They have planned some amazing raffles for 16 fine firearms and other items, and the proceeds support habitat work in Riley, Geary, Pottawatomie, Washington, Clay and Marshall Counties. **For information about the banquet, contact Josh Vogt** at (608) 225 2309 or at bccmanhattan@cox.net.

EQIP / WHIP / CSP Signups

Producers with cropland, rangeland, or forestland with any concerns should visit their local NRCS office and work with the staff to **develop a conservation plan**. Financial assistance for certain improvements may be available, and applications for these programs can be submitted at any time. As future signup deadlines are

announced, the **applications on hand will be ranked and considered for funding**.

A new program within EQIP this year provides funding for **windbreak renovation, tree plantings along streambanks and woodland management**. A Kansas Forest Service specialist will visit your property and recommend improvements.

For information about EQIP, WHIP and CSP – call Kevin Religa at (785) 776 7582 ext 1303 - or visit the KS NRCS Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs. NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Manhattan Area Garden Show



Held at Pottorf Hall in CICO Park - Free Admission
The Garden Show's dates and hours this year are:

Saturday - February 26th 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday - February 27th NOON - 4:00 PM



ENVIROTHON

This year's **Area Envirothon** competitions will be held at **Banner Creek Reservoir near Holton on April 13th**, and at **Council Grove Reservoir on April 20th, 2011**. The statewide Envirothon competition will then be held in **Salina on May 11th**.

The **Envirothon program** is for students in grades 9 - 12, who conduct fieldwork, and then compete in the five subject areas of Wildlife, Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, and the Current Environmental Issue.



Burn Permits



Prescribed burning is required on many local CSP, CRP, WHIP and EQIP contracts. Landowners are reminded that a **burn permit is required in Riley County**. Please be safe and follow all county burning guidelines. For information or to obtain a permit, contact Riley County Emergency Management at (785) 537 6333, or you can apply online at www.rileycountyks.gov.

Conservation Tree Program

The Kansas Forest Service offers **low cost tree and shrub seedlings for use in conservation plantings**, such as windbreaks, shelterbelts, woodlots and wildlife plantings. The seedlings usually begin shipping in mid March, as weather permits. KFS has an order form listing the plant varieties and their cost at www.kansasforests.org. Or call them at (785) 532 3300, or toll free at (888) 740 8733. Order forms are also available at the Conservation District Office.



Range and Wildflower Tours

Alex Miller - NRCS Range Conservationist led a tour of a private pasture near Manhattan last August, to learn the wildflowers of Riley County, the role of pollinators and their habitat, and to view a patch-burn grazing system first hand. Everyone had a good time, and **another wildflower tour is tentatively planned for this spring** – possibly in June at the District’s farm. Watch for an announcement in local papers and on our website.

District’s Website Has Moved

www.rileycountyks.gov/index.aspx?nid=1014 is our new home, hosted by Riley County government. Our Newsletters are available there in full color in early January and early June - plus other timely information.

Check us out! And let us know if you’d prefer to view the Newsletters on the website vs. receiving a paper copy in the mail. **That conserves paper and postage.**



Farm the Best, Buffer the Rest

If you have small fields that are hard to reach, difficult to farm or lower in yield due to overhanging trees, you might consider conservation buffers. This could make financial sense **in certain areas** – farm the best, and put the lower yield areas into grass and hold the soil.

Buffers are enrolled in **CCRP**, and there are a variety of programs to fit different needs. **CP38** allows enrollment of entire fields smaller than five acres, and can be a good fit for hard to reach fields, skinny points, thin or poor soils or other problem areas. **For information regarding these programs**, please contact the USDA Service Center at (785) 776 7582, ext 1301 or 1303.

Conservation District Sales

The District offers items for sale or rent from time to time, with the **proceeds going toward** Annual Meeting costs, awards to school children for poster and essay contests, conservation awards to landowners, participation in the Envirothon and other **programs that educate and promote the wise use of our county’s natural resources.**



Native Grass Seed – our standard mix includes Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass and Sideoats Grama. **Special seed mixes can be prepared for your site, and we rent grassland drills.** Please call Bob at (785) 537 8764 ext 1301 for availability.

Riley County Conservation District
3705 Miller Parkway – Suite A
Manhattan, KS 66503
(785) 537 8764 ext 1301

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Happy New Year 2011 !

WATER CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

**Riley County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors:**

Nathan Larson, Chair
Stanley Johnson, Vice Chair
Norman Danielsen, Treasurer
Steve Hargrave, Member
Steve Strauss, Member

Conservation District Staff:

Bob Lienemann, District Manager



**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Staff:**

Kevin C. Religa,
District Conservationist
Tom Roth,
Soil Conservationist
Nick Strawn,
Soil Conservation Technician
John Henry,
Range Management Specialist
Alex Miller,
Range Management Specialist

Riley County Conservation District Board meetings are generally held the second Thursday of each month -
March-October at 8:00 pm, and November-February at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend – please call to verify time of meeting.